

1 REMARKS

2 The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 through
3 23, and consideration and allowance of new claim 25 in view of the above amendments and the
4 following arguments.

5
6 STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

7 Claims 1 through 23, and 25 are pending in this application. Claims 24 is canceled above
8 without prejudice. Independent claims 1, 6, 14, and 16 are each amended above to include a
9 limitation relating to an additional video display that is mounted below the player control surface
10 on a gaming machine. This limitation is clearly shown in the application as originally filed at
11 reference numeral 18 in Figure 1 and is described at the tope of page 9 of the disclosure and
12 elsewhere in the disclosure. Independent claim 21 is amended above to refer to a player control
13 video display and to add the limitation regarding mechanical player controls located on the player
14 control ledge which includes a player control video display. Support for this amendment may be
15 found in Figure 1 and in the discussion from page 9, line 10 through page 10 of the disclosure as
16 originally filed.

17
18 OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS 1, 6, 14, 16, and 21

19 Claims 1, 6, 14, 16, and 21 were objected to because of the use of the transitional term
20 "including" rather than the word "comprising." Applicants respectfully traverse these objections.
21 The transitional term "including" has long been recognized as an appropriate inclusive, open-
22 ended transitional term and is considered synonymous with the transitional term "comprising."

1 See M.P.E.P. §2111.03. In this light, the Applicants respectfully decline to change the
2 transitional term used in the present claims and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw
3 the objection as to the term “including.”
4

5 CLAIMS 1-5, 14-18, AND 20-23 ARE NOT ANTICIPATED BY ALCORN

6 The Examiner rejected claims 1 through 5, 14 through 18, and 20 through 24 under 35
7 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 6,620,047 to Alcorn et al., (the “Alcorn
8 patent” or “Alcorn”). The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are not anticipated by
9 Alcorn.

10 Applicants’ independent claim 1 specifically requires “a second additional video display
11 mounted on the front side of the cabinet below the player control device.” The Alcorn patent
12 does not teach or suggest such a video display. In contrast, Alcorn teaches a single video display
13 screen that is electronically subdivided into multiple regions (Alcorn at col. 3, ln. 55-57). The
14 entire video display in Alcorn is located above the shelf 38 containing buttons 40.

15 Because the Alcorn patent does not teach the second additional video display required by
16 Applicants’ claim 1, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Alcorn patent and is allowable over the
17 Alcorn patent together with its dependent claims, claims 2 through 5.

18 Applicants’ independent claim 14 is directed to a method for presenting a game
19 presentation at a gaming machine and, among other things, requires simultaneously with
20 displaying a first game presentation component, “displaying a third game presentation
21 component on a third video display mounted below a player control device on the front side of
22 the gaming machine.” As discussed above with regard to claim 1, Alcorn fails to teach or

1 suggest any video display device positioned below the player control devices on the front side of
2 the gaming machine. Thus, Alcorn cannot teach or suggest making any part of a game
3 presentation at a video display mounted below a player control device on the front side of the
4 gaming machine.

5 Because the Alcorn patent does not teach each and every element set out in claim 14, the
6 claim cannot be anticipated by the Alcorn patent. The Applicants respectfully submit that claim
7 14 is allowable over the Alcorn patent together with its sole dependent claim, claim 15.

8 The Applicants' claim 16 is directed to a method for controlling a gaming machine and
9 requires "displaying a first game presentation through a number of video displays mounted on a
10 front side of the gaming machine, **at least one of the number of video displays being mounted**
11 **below a player control device**, and each respective video display showing a respective portion
12 of the first game presentation." Alcorn fails to disclose or suggest displaying any game
13 presentations through a number of video displays with one video display mounted below a player
14 control device.

15 Because the Alcorn patent does not teach each and every element set out in claim 16, the
16 claim cannot be anticipated by the Alcorn patent. The Applicants respectfully submit that claim
17 16 is allowable over the Alcorn patent together with its dependent claims, claims 17 through 20.

18 Claim 21 is directed to a gaming machine and requires:

- 19 (a) a cabinet;
20 (b) a game video display mounted on a front side of the cabinet;
21 (c) a player control video display forming at least a portion of a forwardly projecting
22 ledge located below the game video display, the forwardly projecting ledge
23 extending transversely to a plane of the game video display; and
24 (d) one or more mechanical player control devices mounted on the forwardly
25 projecting ledge adjacent to the player control video display. (Emphasis added)

1 Alcorn does not teach or suggest the combination of a player control video display as
2 required by element (c) of claim 21, and with one or more mechanical player control devices all
3 mounted together with the player control video display on a forwardly projecting ledge as
4 required by element (d) of claim 21.

5 Because the Alcorn patent does not teach each and every element set out in claim 21, the
6 claim cannot be anticipated by the Alcorn patent. The Applicants respectfully submit that claim
7 21 is allowable over the Alcorn patent together with its dependent claims, claims 22, 23, and 25.

8
9 CLAIMS 6-13 AND 19 ARE NOT OBVIOUS OVER ALCORN IN VIEW OF WAIN

10 The Examiner rejected claims 6 through 13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being
11 unpatentable over Alcorn in view of U.S. patent No. 4,335,809 to Wain (the "Wain patent" or
12 "Wain"). The Applicants submit that the claims as amended are not obvious in view of the
13 proposed combination of the Alcorn and Wain patents on the ground that the proposed
14 combination does not teach or suggest each and every element set out in the Applicants'
15 amended claims.

16 As discussed above, independent claims 6 and 16 are both amended to require a
17 limitation as to a video display located below the player control surface of the gaming machine.
18 As also discussed above, the Alcorn patent does not teach or suggest any video display located
19 below a player control surface of a gaming machine. The Wain patent does not in any way make
20 up for this deficiency in the Alcorn patent. Specifically, the Wain patent discloses a video
21 display 4 mounted on a gaming machine above a series of control switches 6 as shown in Figure

1 of the Wain patent. However, the Wain patent does not teach or suggest any video display mounted below the control switches 6.

Because, neither the Alcorn nor Wain patent teaches or suggests the video display mounted below a player control surface on a gaming machine as required by claims 6 and 16, the Applicants submit that the proposed combination also cannot teach or suggest this feature. Thus, the Applicants submit that independent claims 6 and 16 are not obvious over the proposed combination of the Alcorn and Wain patents, and are in condition for allowance together with their respective dependent claims, including claims 7 through 13 and 19.

CLAIMS 1-24 ARE NOT OBVIOUS OVER JAFFE IN VIEW OF WAIN

The Examiner rejected claims 1 through 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 6,254,481 to Jaffe (the "Jaffe patent" or "Jaffe") in view of the Wain patent. The Applicants submit that the claims as amended are not obvious in view of the proposed combination of the Jaffe and Wain patents on the ground that the proposed combination does not teach or suggest each element required in the respective claims.

Jaffe does not show a video display mounted on the front side of a cabinet below a player control device as recited in Applicants' amended claims 1, 6, 14, and 16. The only video displays disclosed in the Jaffe patent, displays 14 and 16, are located above a player control ledge shown in Figure 1 of Jaffe, but not labeled. The Wain patent does not make up for this deficiency in Jaffe. As discussed above, the Wain patent does not teach or suggest a video display mounted below the control buttons 6 shown in Wain's Figure 1.

1 Because, neither Jaffe nor Wain teaches or suggests the video display mounted below a
2 player control surface on a gaming machine as required by independent claims 1, 6, 14, and 16,
3 the Applicants submit that the proposed combination also cannot teach or suggest this feature.
4 Thus, the Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 6, 14, and 16 are not obvious over the
5 proposed combination of the Jaffe and Wain patents, and are in condition for allowance together
6 with their respective dependent claims, claims 2 through 5, 7 through 13, 15 , and 17 through 20.

7 As discussed above, claim 21 has been amended to require one or more mechanical
8 player control devices mounted on the forwardly projecting ledge on which the player control
9 display is mounted. Neither the Jaffe nor the Wain patent teaches or suggests this combination of
10 player control display and mechanical player control devices.

11 Because, neither Jaffe nor Wain teaches or suggests the combination player control
12 display and mechanical control devices required by independent claim 21, the Applicants submit
13 that the proposed combination also cannot teach or suggest this combination of features. Thus,
14 the Applicants submit that independent claim 21 is not obvious over the proposed combination of
15 the Jaffe and Wain patents, and is in condition for allowance together with its dependent claims,
16 claims 22, 23, and 25.

1 CONCLUSION

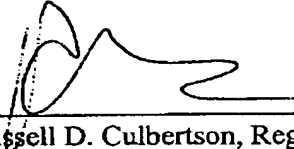
2 For all of the above reasons the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and
3 allowance of claims 1 through 23, and consideration and allowance of new claim 25.

4 If the Examiner should feel that any issue remains as to the allowability of these claims,
5 or that a conference might expedite allowance of the claims, he is asked to telephone the
6 undersigned attorney.

7 Respectfully submitted,

8 THE CULBERTSON GROUP, P.C.

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23 Office, (Fax No. 703-872-9306) on March 30, 2005.

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